

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Statement of Regulatory Priorities

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers services and benefit programs that recognize the important public obligations to those who served this Nation. VA's regulatory responsibility is almost solely confined to carrying out mandates of the laws enacted by Congress relating to programs for veterans and their families. VA's major regulatory objective is to implement these laws with fairness, justice, and efficiency.

Most of the regulations issued by VA involve at least one of three VA components: The Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration. The primary mission of the Veterans Benefits Administration is to provide high-quality and timely nonmedical benefits to eligible veterans and their dependents. The primary mission of the Veterans Health Administration is to provide high-quality health care on a timely basis to eligible veterans through its system of medical centers, nursing homes, domiciliaries, and outpatient medical and dental facilities. The primary mission of the National Cemetery Administration is to bury eligible veterans, members of the Reserve components, and their dependents in VA National Cemeteries and to maintain those cemeteries as national shrines in perpetuity as a final tribute of a grateful Nation to commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

VA's regulatory priority plan consists of three high priority regulations:

1) RIN 2900-AQ30 Proposed Rule – Modifying Copayments for Veterans at High Risk for Suicide

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to amend its medical regulations that govern copayments for outpatient medical care and medications for at-risk veterans.

2) RIN 2900-AR01 Proposed Rule – VA Pilot Program on Graduate Medical Education and Residency

The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to revise its medical regulations to establish a new pilot program on graduate medical education and residency, as required by section 403 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems

and Strengthening Integrated Outside Network Act of 2018.

3) RIN 2900-AR16 Interim Final Rule – Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide

Prevention Grant Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing this interim final rule to implement legislation authorizing VA initiate a three-year community-based grant program to award grants to eligible entities to provide or coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services to eligible individuals and their families. This rulemaking specifies grant eligibility criteria, application requirements, scoring criteria, constraints on the allocation and use of the funds, and other requirements necessary to implement this grant program.